

TASS OUTLINES SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR ALL-EUROPEAN OIL CONFERENCE

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(^{USSR}
"ALTERNATIVE"--TASS HEADLINE)

(TEXT) MOSCOW, 29 FEBRUARY--TASS COMMENTATOR NIKOLAY PORTUGALOV
WRITES:

ONE WOULD LIKE TO HOPE THAT THE WEST EUROPEAN ANALYSIS STUDYING
LEONID BREZHNEV'S SPEECH BEFORE HIS ELECTORATE IN THE CITY OF MOSCOW
ON 22 FEBRUARY WOULD DEVOTE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THAT PORTION OF
THE FOREIGN POLICY SECTION WHICH DEALS WITH OIL SUPPLY ROUTES AND WITH
THE COMMUNICATIONS AREA IN THE PERSIAN GULF. THE SOVIET POINT OF
VIEW IN THIS MOST IMPORTANT MATTER, SET OUT HERE WITH EXPRESSIVE
BRIEFNESS, COULD BECOME THE POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR ALL-EUROPEAN
INITIATIVES OF GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE, WHICH WOULD BE A BENEFICIAL
ALTERNATIVE TO THE DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT OF EVENTS IN THIS AREA
WHICH HAS BEEN PROVOKED BY WASHINGTON.

REGARDING THE NEED TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF U.S. OIL SUPPLY
ROUTES, THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE TO SOME EXTENT. HOWEVER, THE U.S.
ADMINISTRATION IS TURNING THIS AREA INTO A POWDER KEG WHICH WILL
HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT. AFTER ALL, THE OIL SUPPLY ROUTES AND THEIR
SECURITY ARE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE NOT ONLY FOR THE UNITED STATES BUT
TO AN EVEN GREATER EXTENT FOR OTHER CONSUMER COUNTRIES OF ARAB OIL
AND EQUALLY SO FOR THE COUNTRIES PRODUCING AND MARKETING IT.
BY UNILATERALLY PROCLAIMING THE PERSIAN GULF AREA TO BE A SPHERE
OF U.S. VITAL INTERESTS WHERE IT MAY APPLY FORCE ACCORDING TO ITS
DISCRETION, WASHINGTON IS VIRTUALLY CLAIMING THE RIGHT OF
EXCLUSIVE, OR IN ANY CASE, OF PREFERENTIAL ACCESS TO FOREIGN OIL
FOR ITS MONOPOLIES.

MOREOVER, BY CONCENTRATING A MIGHTY ARMADA IN THE PERSIAN GULF

...ION AND CREATING "OIL REACTION FORCES" THE UNITED STATES
 MAKING NO SECRET OF THE FACT THAT IT WILL USE ANY UNFAVORABLE
 INTERNAL CHANGES IN THE "OIL COUNTRIES" AS A PRETEXT FOR MILITARY
 INTERVENTION.

IN VIEW OF THE UNSTABLE SITUATION IN THIS REGION, ANY SPARK
 NOW SET OFF THE GUNPOWDER CELLAR. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS
 WOULD BE DISASTROUS, IN THE FIRST PLACE TO THE ENERGY SUPPLIES OF
 THE WEST.

WHAT IS THE REACTION TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS OF WEST EUROPEAN
 COUNTRIES AND JAPAN, WHICH DEPEND ON THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST OIL
 MUCH MORE THAN THE UNITED STATES? UP TO NOW THEY HAVE--AT LEAST IN
 OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON SOLIDARITY WITH THE UNITED STATES--SUPPORTED
 THE AMERICANS' SLANDEROUS ASSERTIONS THAT THE SOVIET UNION, IN ITS
 ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO BREAK OUT TO THE PERSIAN GULF, POSES A
 THREAT TO THE OIL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE WEST, EVEN THOUGH THE VERY
 OPPOSITE SITUATION ACTUALLY EXISTS.

WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BELIEVE THAT THE MEANS BY WHICH ARAB OIL
 IS SUPPLIED AND DISTRIBUTED, WHICH ARE AT THE DISPOSAL OF TRANSNATIONAL
 OIL COMPANIES (MAINLY U.S. ONES), ARE, FOR THE TIME BEING,
 IRREPLACEABLE. THAT IS WHY THEY RECONCILE THEMSELVES WITH "OIL
 SUPPLY CRISES" ARTIFICIALLY CREATED BY THE "SEVEN SISTERS" AND WITH
 THE RAPACIOUS SQUANDERING OF ENERGY IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH,
 WITHOUT REGARD FOR ITS ALLIES, INCREASES ARAB OIL IMPORTS YEAR IN
 AND YEAR OUT. ONE CAN JUST ABOUT UNDERSTAND ALL OF THIS SOMEHOW.
 BUT WHEN THE U.S. OIL MONOPOLIES BEGIN TO DETERMINE U.S. GLOBAL
 POLICY IN QUESTIONS OF WAR AND PEACE AND, GUIDED SOLELY BY THE DESIRE
 TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM PROFITS IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, PROMOTE THE
 CREATION OF EXPLOSIVE SITUATIONS IN THE PERSIAN GULF REGION, IT IS
 TIME FOR WEST EUROPE TO SOUND THE ALARM.

NOT ONLY IS THE USSR NOT STRIVING TO "GET A ROUTE TO THE WARM SEAS"
 FOR ITSELF BY FORCE, BUT IT IS ITSELF INTERESTED IN THE SECURITY
 OF OIL ROUTES IN THE PERSIAN GULF REGION. FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT,
 IN HIS RECENT INTERVIEW FOR THE JOURNAL DER SPIEGEL, STATED THAT THE
 USSR, AS A POTENTIAL PURCHASER OF NEAR EAST OIL, HAS A LEGITIMATE
 RIGHT OF ACCESS TO ITS SOURCES. THUS, A DEFINITE PARALLEL OF
 INTERESTS OF ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CAN BE SEEN AS FAR AS THIS ISSUE
 IS CONCERNED.

THEREFORE, IT IS QUITE FEASIBLE TO INCLUDE PROBLEMS OF THE SECURITY OF OIL COMMUNICATIONS AND EQUAL COMMERCIAL ACCESS TO OIL SOURCES OF THE PERSIAN GULF REGION IN THE AGENDA ON THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ENERGY, WHICH HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET UNION. ALL COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SIGNED THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT COULD JOINTLY SUBMIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION PROPOSALS CONCERNING APPROPRIATE GUARANTEES WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY THIS WORLD FORUM. IF THE EASTERN COUNTRIES WHICH POSSESS OIL AGREE TO THIS, THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION COULD EXTEND SUCH GUARANTEES TO COVER THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THESE COUNTRIES.

LEONID BREZHNEV STRESSED IN HIS SPEECH THAT THE SOVIET UNION SUPPORTS, AS BEFORE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEACEFUL COOPERATION WITH ALL WESTERN COUNTRIES, AMONG THEM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. IT WOULD SEEM, THEREFORE, THAT CORRELATING THE PROBLEM OF EQUAL AND FREE ACCESS TO OIL SOURCES WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THOSE TO WHOM IT BELONGS, AND THE GUARANTEED SECURITY OF THE WAYS OF ITS DELIVERY, AT FIRST WITHIN AN ALL-EUROPE FRAMEWORK AND LATER IN THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION, COULD BECOME A SENSIBLE AND PROMISING ALTERNATIVE TO THE ADVENTURIST AND HEGEMONISTIC POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE PERSIAN GULF REGION.

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THE SECTION IS BEING HANDLED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BEING HANDLED IN THE DEPT. OF STATE TO THE ENERGY SECRETARIAT
AND TO THE COMMISSION ON THE OCEANIC RESEARCH
IN VIEW OF THE FACTS THAT THE DEPT. OF STATE HAS

IN THE DEPT. OF STATE, NO SPECIAL MEASURES
ARE BEING TAKEN TO PROMOTE THE OIL INDUSTRY IN THE PERSIAN GULF
REGION. THE DEPT. OF STATE IS NOT A PARTY TO THE HELSINKI FINAL
ACT AND DOES NOT HAVE A VETO IN THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION
AND THEREFORE CANNOT ENFORCE THE GUARANTEES WHICH WOULD BE